

THE EYES OF A MONSTER

On the night of Oct. 31, 2009, Timothy Brenton and Seattle Police Department trainee Britt Sweeney were on patrol in the Leschi neighborhood when a car pulled up alongside. A man later known to be Christopher Monfort opened fire with a .223-caliber rifle, killing Brenton instantly and grazing the back of Sweeney, who had ducked.



According to her report, Sweeney jumped out of the patrol car and fired 10 bullets from her .40-caliber Glock. She hit Monfort's car, an early 1980's Datsun 210 which was owned by Monfort, and stray bullets hit a parked truck, a light pole, a yard fence and a home nearby. Monfort sped away unharmed.

One week later, while a memorial service was being held for Brenton, Seattle police went to a Tukwila apartment complex to check out a

report of a tenant having a car matching the suspect's. When police arrived, Monfort walked into the parking lot and, upon seeing the officers, and fled up a nearby stairwell. The cops followed in pursuit. As they stepped into a landing area, Monfort appeared and aimed a handgun at the face of one cop, pulling the trigger at close range.

According to the police reports, the cop heard a "dry fire." Monfort turned and ran again. Upon reaching a fourth-floor landing, Monfort aimed his gun toward towards the cops and the three officers -- Nelson, Sgt. Bob Vallor and Detective Rolf Norton -- each fired two shots at Monfort. The shots met his head and stomach, ending the chase and paralyzing Monfort from the waist down. Detectives searched Monfort's apartment and found a document near his computer printer that matched a message left at a city maintenance yard by someone who firebombed police vehicles Oct. 22, nine days earlier. The "bomber," as the police and media called him, had left several messages at the yard criticizing the police as a violent institution.

Prosecutors say Monfort was motivated by anger over former King County Sheriff's Deputy Paul Schene, who is accused of beating Malika Calhoun, then 15, in a SeaTac City Hall holding cell after she was arrested for investigation of car theft on Nov. 29, 2008. In the courtroom,

Despite the crushing moments of valiant rebellion's defeat, there are moments which reveal the fragility of the system. Not long ago, a crime lab fire sprinkler doused DNA evidence, including some from Monfort's case. Unfortunately, the evidence for Monfort's case had already been admitted. Evidence from approximately 100 criminal cases got drenched, and 20 to 25 cases were thoroughly soaked. Scientists are still determining if the DNA was contaminated. A fire alarm went off and the crime lab building was evacuated. The fire department later realized the alarm went off when it sensed water flow in the sprinkler. The Seattle Fire Marshal's Office has yet to determine what caused the sprinkler to malfunction.

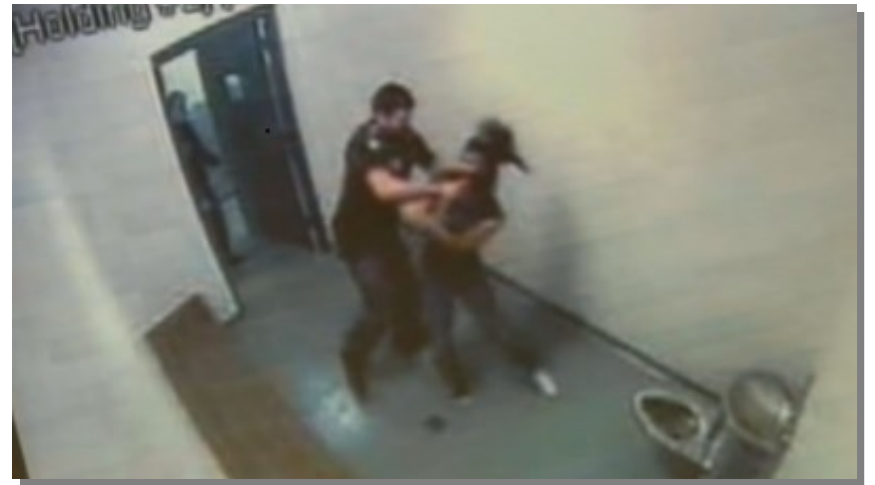
(Text from Tides of Flame #7, Oct 2011, p.5-6)

On January 18, 2017, Chris Monfort was found dead in his cell at Walla Walla State Penitentiary. Officials reported his death as an overdose. Chris was in touch with anarchist prison support networks during his time incarcerated, and never gave up his hatred of the police.

Rest in Power



Monfort again and again spoke out against the police and the lie of police protection, saying, "If the police are wrong, we depend on the police to cross the blue line of silence and apprehend, detain and file charges against those police who are corrupt." The problem of police violence cannot be reformed away.



The police exist to kill with impunity. The police are symptomatic of the sickness of society, and this is why it is laughable that anyone would believe in the lie of social peace. Society produces its criminals, and in this sense, society gets the criminals it deserves. Monfort declared what those of us who have not bought into this lie know to be true: "We've had enough. The people will not take it any longer. We will not take it any longer." Directing his voice toward the audience of the court after the judge ordered him to be silent he continued, "We'll fight and we're everywhere. You can't see us coming."



The eyes that watch us are monstrous, and they make monsters out of us. Anyone who takes their life into their own hands glimpses the weakness of the State.

***This is Monfort's strength:
the absence of fear in the
face of a monster.***

II

The threat of disease to a healthy society is the basis for the current system of social control; prison society is a society of police, preemptive punishment, and coercive forces of authority. Imposed as part of a pacification project, a dangerous subject is constructed and vilified so that the governed will turn to authority for protection. This opposition has historically been used to consolidate and fortify the state.

In the case of Brenton's killing, we saw how forces of authority collaborated in a grand frantic effort to reestablish faith in the current social order, to gather again the belief in their promise of peace. With the smooth functioning of a well oiled machine, the journalists appear to create order out of the chaos of the shootout. A Seattle Police spokes person called Brenton's shooting "an act of terrorism."

This year, the Washington State Office of Public Defense submitted a \$4.1 million request on behalf of King County but received nothing.

Within the mainstream discourse concerning the death penalty a consensus is reached about the necessity of this ultimate punishment despite the fact that its repeated failings are acknowledged. The Seattle Times is running articles that claim to examine the subject, saying things like, "Let's return to capital punishment as a rare option for the most heinous crimes; a punishment carried out not as a deterrent, but as a true punishment for those we're certain deserve it." The instances of the death penalty being used when the evidence of crime was contentious are seen as 'miscarriages of justice' but one wouldn't dare question state 'justice' outright.



active capital cases, including Christopher Monfort. In another case, two defendants are on trial for allegedly slaying six members of one defendant's family on Christmas Eve four years ago. In a third case, Conner Schierman was sentenced to death last year for killing a Kirkland family of four in 2006. Satterberg is now deciding whether to seek the ultimate punishment against Louis Chen, a physician charged with stabbing his partner more than 100 times and slashing their toddler son to death.



Rather than tell prosecutors not to enforce the law, state officials set up the Extraordinary Criminal Justice Fund to assist in these prosecutions. Under this process, county prosecutors, sheriffs and police chiefs submit requests to the Washington State Office of Public Defense, which audits the requests and submits a recommendation to the Legislature.

To define the terrorist, they juxtapose him to the citizen, obedient and composed, happily seated in the lie of social peace. "Monfort, A Terrorist Among Us?" one headline stated in November of 2009. In this rhetorical question one can already sense an argument for placing all of the population under a watchful eye. Thus is the goal of prison society: permanent and total surveillance, from within as well as without.

A terrorist among us? Christopher Monfort

In the journalist's half-witted analysis, one can see clearly how this paradigm of domination becomes the dominate paradigm. Another headline from the Seattle Times offered their take on the cop killer: "Monfort, loner obsessed by ideology," followed by a depiction of an insane man who lost control. "Monfort's life, it seems, is one of unfulfilled ambition," the prescriptive words of psycho analysts read. Articles like these show us how forces of social control react in moments when they are threatened.

The fear that acts like Monfort's could resonate moves these forces with a renewed urgency. A shadowy claim was made by the local Fox News affiliate that child pornography had been found on Monfort's computer. Nothing more was ever



said of it. Shortly after his arrest another story appeared from one of his classmates who claimed he stalked her. These tales are exactly what the forces of order need to invalidate direct action. By pointing to his irrationality, his anti-social loner behavior, his actions are excluded from the realm of the political which has a monopoly on reason and excludes individual armed struggle from the possibility of analysis.

The media, as one force of social control, seeks to analyze and psychologically profile individuals in order to isolate and thus erase direct action as a value of subversive struggle, portraying direct action instead as a futile endeavor that can end only in death.

III

"The most important function of local government is to protect the public through enforcement of the rule of law. It is what separates a civil society from lawlessness, keeps our neighborhoods safe, and establishes an orderly environment for commerce. That's why it is essential that we as a society have the death penalty as the ultimate punishment."

- Reagan Dunn, Metropolitan King County Councilmember, Former Federal Prosecutor, Senior Counsel, U.S. Department of Justice

King County has already spent \$1.13 million on Monfort's defense. Due to budget cuts, the State is reevaluating whether it is worth the high cost to sentence Monfort to death. At present, the death sentence is preserved at all costs with the justification of the sacredness of the law. Politicians like Reagan Dunn fortell the tragedy it would be to suspend the law in these hard times. What governs is sacred and remains so by constant purification—society purges itself of what is of no use.

King County Prosecutor Dan Satterberg makes these decisions personally and with great care, citizens rest assured. King County currently has two

